Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know what are the superior qualifications of the gentleman employed in preference to the other applicants ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The present Secretary has been a Member of this House and he has had ample opportunities of following the actual working of this House and has gained much experience.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Were they sure that other Members of this House would not have come forward if they had invited the applications ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is a problematical question and I cannot answer that.

Teaching of Hindi.

7. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether Hindi has been taught as an optional subject in any of the schools or Colleges of the State;

(2) if so, the number of schools in which it is taught?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(1) Yes; in schools only.

(2) Ten.

Culvert—Vallachira Panchayat Road.

8. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware of the inconvenience caused to the public by not constructing a culvert towards the western end of the Vallachira Panchayat road which has been recently improved;

(2) the reason why they have not provided for one when they constructed the road;

(3) whether they have received petitions from the inhabitants of Vallachira praying for the construction of a tank in the village;

(4) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what they propose to do in the matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) Yes.

(2) It was then thought that an Irish drain would serve the purpose.

(3) Yes.

(4) Necessary enquiries are being made.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did the original budget for the improvement of the road include the construction of the culvert ?

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